

URBAN DISTRICT OF FULWOOD.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1895.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Return as Medical Officer of Health for the Fulwood Urban District for the year 1895.

Of the first importance to a community is the amount of sickness and death that occurs during any period of the year, and, as the standard of healthiness or otherwise of a district is generally judged, it becomes necessary in an Urban District like Fulwood, where we have so many Public and Government Institutions in which large numbers of people are gathered together, to divide the district into two populations, *i.e.*, class the whole Public Institutions into one, and the district proper into another.

The area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,117
Estimated Population	...	...	...	5,108, inclusive of Institutions						
Estimated Population of District proper	...	...	...	2,532 to 1895						
No. of Deaths in District	...	...	...	...	...	...	233 inclusive			
No. of Deaths in Fulwood proper	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34	
Births in District	...	...	...	...	...	...	151 inclusive			
Births in Fulwood proper	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65	

Now, 34 deaths out of a population of 2,532 gives us a death-rate of 13.4 per 1,000, which is very satisfactory and low, though compared with last year not quite so favourable, but still we have to take into account that last year's was very low, and again we have an increase in population.

In the previous years it has been—

1891	16.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	per 1,000
1892	13.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
1893	13.9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
1894	11.9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"

The estimated population, including Institutes, being 5,108, and number of deaths 233, would give a death-rate for the whole of 45.6, which appears very high, but is accounted for by the large number of deaths in the Institutions, particularly the Workhouse, 168 having occurred there.

Next to a low death-rate we have to consider the infant mortality; the death-rate of infants under one year of age, compared with the births, is the best criterion of a healthy and progressing community; here we have six deaths and 65 births, which gives us a rate of 92.3 per 1,000. This speaks well, not only for the healthiness of the district, but also for the advantages of careful nursing and well cared for children.

The birth-rate, as compared with that of last year, is also more favourable, *viz.*—29.5, as against 25.5 per 1,000.

The rate of Infant Mortality under five years is, as in previous reports, very low.

The chief causes of deaths may be classed as follows :—

1st.—Those due to the Respiratory Organs, viz. :—

Pneumonia, Pleurisy, and Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	8
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	4
Accident	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	2
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	2
All other Diseases, which do not necessarily come within the province of the Sanitarian	...	...	...	16	

The chief point of interest in the return of deaths is that again in the district proper not one death occurred from the seven principle Zymotic Diseases, but we had not quite a clean sheet from all the Infectious Diseases, for two deaths occurred from Whooping Cough. However, it is a most satisfactory state, and if the Council are desirous of keeping up the standard of health, it will be as well for them to arm themselves with all the powers the law affords, so that, should occasion arise, your officers may be fully prepared to cope with the emergency. One great defect, in my opinion, is the non-adoption of the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act. As no deaths have occurred from the principle Zymotic Diseases, it must not be accepted that they have not been amongst us, for three distinct cases have been notified, but I have no doubt many more have suffered in the district, and the families gone about indiscriminately. In all instances where an infectious disease has come to my knowledge I have made an enquiry, and carried out the necessary steps to prevent its spread.

Next to the Infectious Diseases we have those arising from bad Sanitary arrangements and drainage.

All Pulmonary troubles are greatly reduced by good drainage, and consumption stands out markedly in this case, as dampness of soil predisposes to its ravages.

Therefore it is well that a rigorous inspection be kept, not only in the putting down of drains, but as great of importance is the proper trapping and ventilation of sewers in conjunction with these drains. I find that a great many house drains have not ventilators or air inlets, and if ventilated no air inlets. Every good house ought to have an air inlet, and every block of houses ought to be so provided.

INSANITARY DWELLINGS.—Well, it is unfortunate that I have to report again that the thatched cottage, adjoining Smith's farm, Sharoe Green Lane, which ought to have been demolished long ago, still exists, and in the same filthy and insanitary condition, and I hope immediate steps will be taken for its closure.

Several other houses have been inspected, and sanitary improvements made on my advice. At present there is the property belonging to the Duchy of Lancaster under my consideration, and before long I hope to see, instead of badly drained, dirty, and insanitary houses, some worthy the name of the Duchy.

THE SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—These have been periodically inspected, found clean and healthy, and good meat killed.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—None are carried on in the district.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—This is still in an unsatisfactory state and exercising the Council's power to cope with.

I am pleased that the sewage of Nook Estate that was formerly discharged into the brook has been conveyed into the main sewer.

SCAVENGING has been carried out in the usual manner to the satisfaction of the Inspectors.

Notices served ...	... 2
Houses inspected	... 3 (fumigated)

WATER SUPPLY.—This is good, and the new contemplated Reservoir, the contract for which has been let, when completed will provide water sufficient for all emergencies.

THE DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS have not been visited regularly; only two have had to put new drains and tanks down.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—We have none, but I suppose it is receiving the Council's careful consideration, and, of course, this will include the necessary disinfecting apparatus.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I have to thank you for the trust and honour you have bestowed upon me in re-electing me to fill the important office for another three years, and I hope the high standard of healthiness of your district, which will compare well with most Urban Districts throughout England, and especially Lancashire, may ever continue.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient Servant,
JOHN GARTH,
Medical Officer of Health.

Table of Deaths during the year 1895, in the Fulwood Urban Council District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	Mortality from all causes, at subjoined Ages.							Age.	Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.											
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.		Smallpox.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Total.
FULWOOD	34	6	4	1	2	8	13	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	2	1	...	...	3	...	1	3	10	24
WORKHOUSE	168	8	7	2	6	91	54	Under 5 5 upwds.	1	3	...	4	2	14	4	23	5	11	67	153
BARRACKS	18	4	2	...	6	6	...	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	1	...	...	...	1	4	1	...	2	5	12
CONVENT (LITTLE SISTERS) ...	12	...	...	...	1	2	9	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	9	12	
ORPHANAGE	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	
TOTALS	233	18	13	4	15	107	76	Under 5 5 upwds.	1	4	2	1	2	16	11	31	7	1	16	31
																			94	202

Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the Fulwood Urban Council District ; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	Population at all Ages.			Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	New cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.				
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1895.				Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.		
FULWOOD	2250	2532		65	Under 5 5 upwards.	...	2	...		
WORKHOUSE	657	838		58	Under 5 5 upwards.	1	...	3		
BARRACKS	1045	1300		28	Under 5 5 upwards.	...	...	1
CONVENT (LITTLE SISTERS)	111	92		...	Under 5 5 upwards.	...	...	...
ORPHANAGE	51	130		...	Under 5 5 upwards.	...	...	...
BLIND INSTITUTE .....	...	16		...	Under 5 5 upwards.	...	...	...
TOTALS	4114	5108		151	Under 5 5 upwards.	1	2	4		



URBAN DISTRICT OF FULWOOD.

Medical Officer's Report

FOR THE

Year ending 31st December, 1895.
